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SONIC UNIVERSE™

SPARK
OF LIFE
#**4**
OF 4

WOLDS
UNITE
IN **2**

SONIC UNIVERSE | 74

**BATTLE FOR
THE
DIGITAL REALM!**

*Tracy Yardley
Jim Amash
Hunzeker*

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games!
Where Nicole, the artificial intelligence, is finally confronted by a mysterious being ...



**CHARACTER
= SELECT =**



**PRINCESS
SALLY ACORN**
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER



**NICOLE THE
HEDGEHOG**
ADVANCED A.I.



DR. EGGMAN
NICOLE'S CREATOR



PHAGE
ALL-CONSUMING A.I.

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

A VICIOUS VIRUS

Phage, Dr. Eggman's rogue A.I., is out to steal the mysterious Red Star Rings and a nearby Chaos Emerald from Isolated Island. She's taken over Dr. Ellidy's computer system, and now the island is overrun by vicious robots!

With Nicole at Phage's mercy, Princess Sally uses the Digitizer to access the system and attempt

to stop the threat at its source --
**before
it's too
late...**



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THE DIGITAL WORLD,
WITHIN THE COMPUTER
SYSTEM OF DR. ELLIDY...

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
THINKER.

A STRATEGIST.

A TACTICIAN!

NOW YOU'RE
BOTH MINE TO
EXAMINE!

TO TAKE
APART!

TO ABSORB!

NICOLE--
RUN!

GET OUT OF
THE SYSTEM!

SPARK OF LIFE

PART FOUR

PLOT: IAN FLYNN / SCRIPT: ALEAH BAKER / PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY / INKS: JIM AMASH

COLORS: MATT HERMS / LETTERS: JACK MORELLI

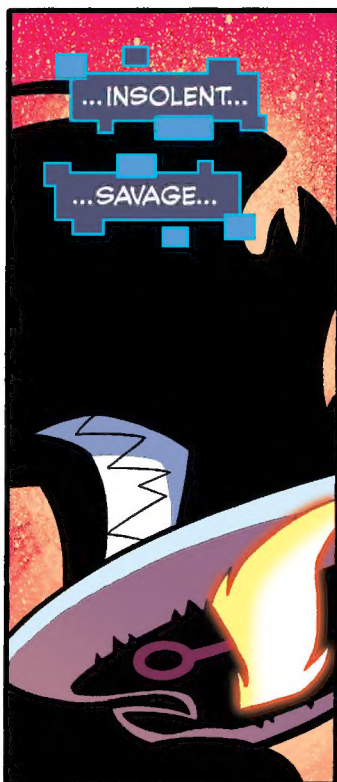
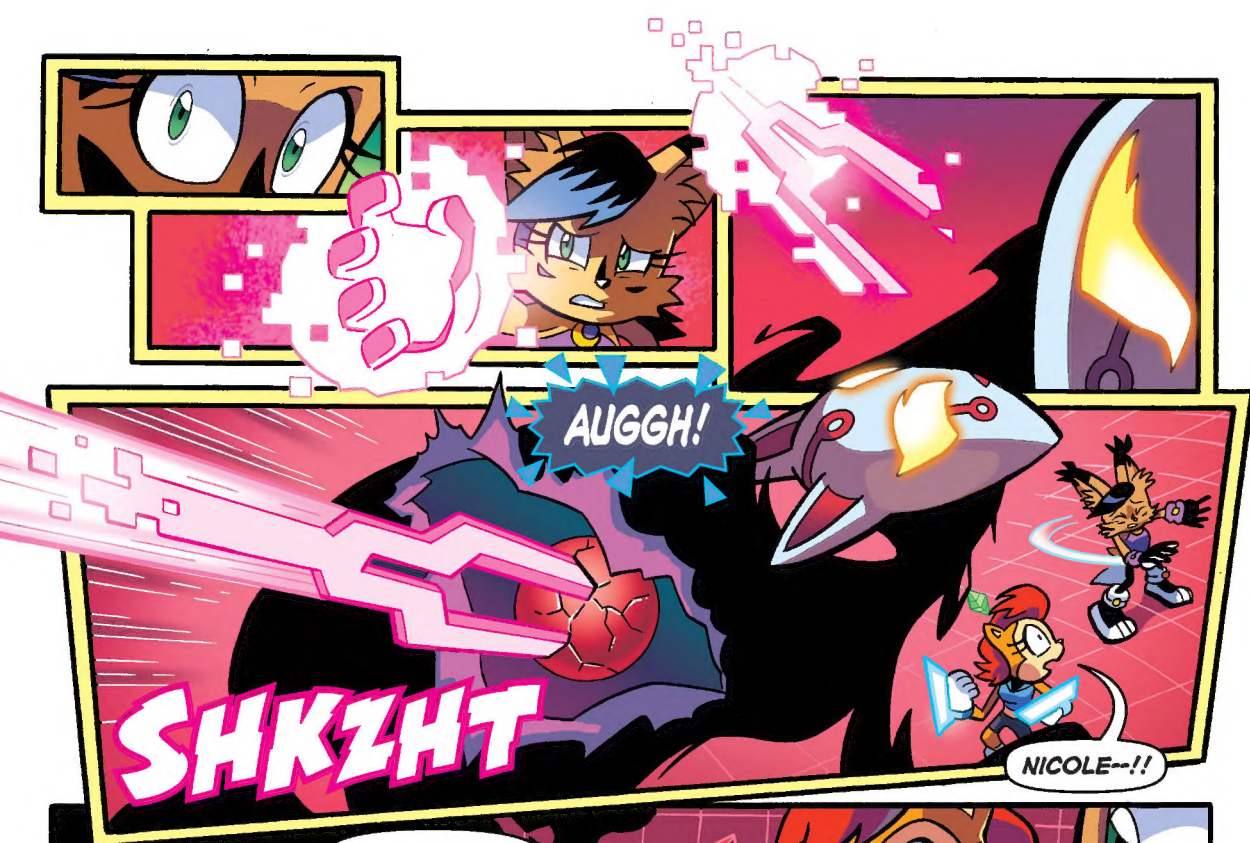
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I'LL
TEAR YOU
DOWN TO THE
LAST BIT OF
CODING!!

GRRRRRAAAAAAAAAUUUUUGH!!

...SO DID
NOT SEE THIS
COMING...

OKAY, SPLIT UP/
ESCAPE TO YOUR
COMPUTER! I'LL
GET OUT VIA THE
DIGITIZER, AND
WE'LL SHUT EVERY-
THING DOWN AND
TAKE THIS MONSTER
WITH IT!

NICOLE??
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

MEANWHILE, IN THE
REAL WORLD...

THERE!
THERE! WE
MADE IT!

LET'S FIND THE
CHAOS EMERALDS
BEFORE PHAGE'S
BADNIKS CATCH
UP!

AND THOSE
DARK GAIA
MONSTERS...

THOSE
TOO.

...WHERE
DO WE
START?

IN THE
LAKE?

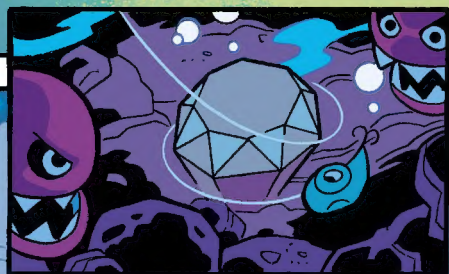
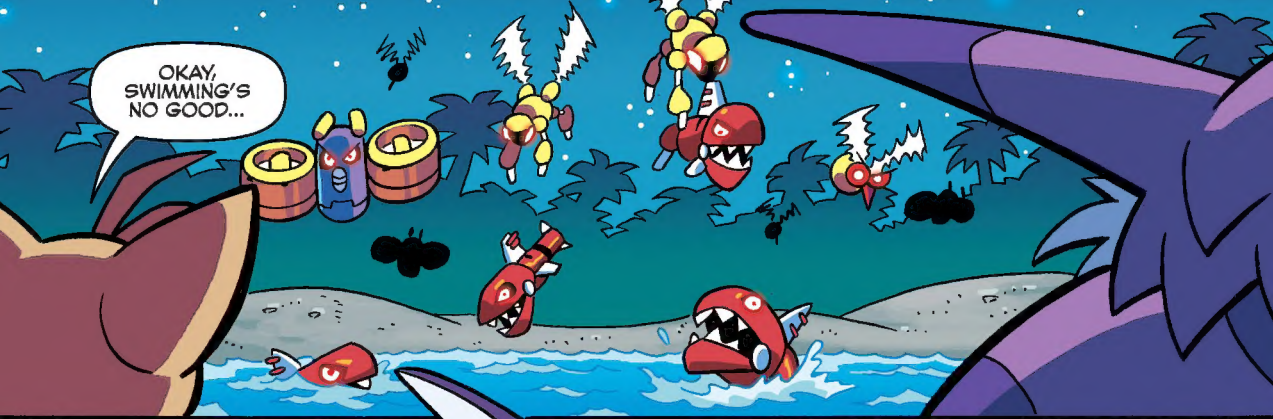
THAT...
ACTUALLY
SEEMS TO
BE THE
CASE.

YAY! I'M A
GENIUS!

GAH!

HERE,
I'LL GO
TAKE--

Huh?!



MEANWHILE...



WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SPLIT UP!

YOU DID IT AGAIN! PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER--

WHAT ABOUT YOU? I TOLD YOU TO ESCAPE, NOT ATTACK!



ESCAPE TO *WHERE?* I CAN'T REACH MY COMPUTER. DON'T YOU THINK I TRIED?

PHAGE WOULDN'T LET ME.

...BUT THAT'S THE LOGICAL EXPLANATION. IT'S NOT THE REAL ONE.



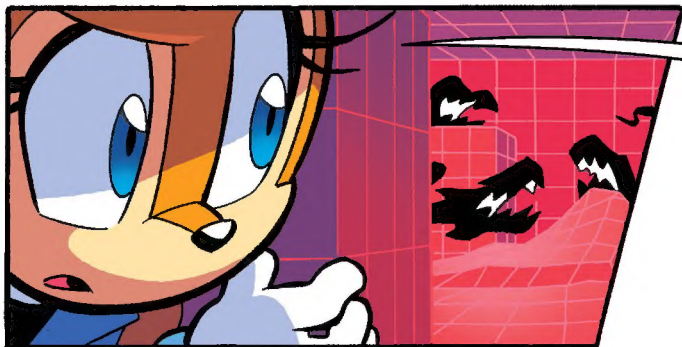
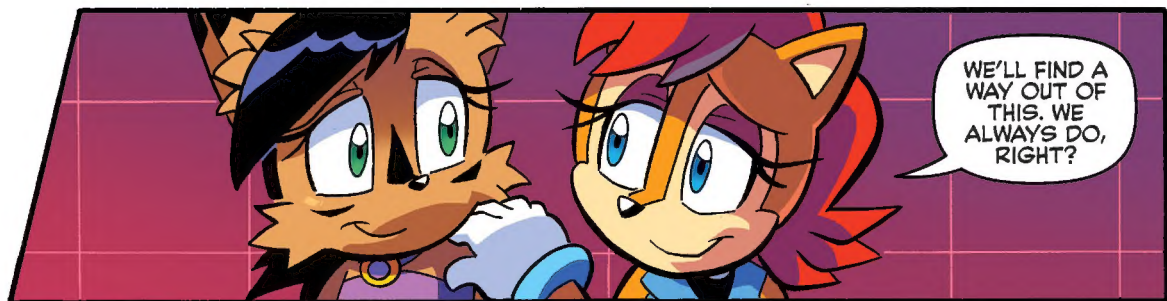
I DIDN'T RUN BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF LEAVING YOU TO GET HURT. I ACTED...

RECKLESSLY.

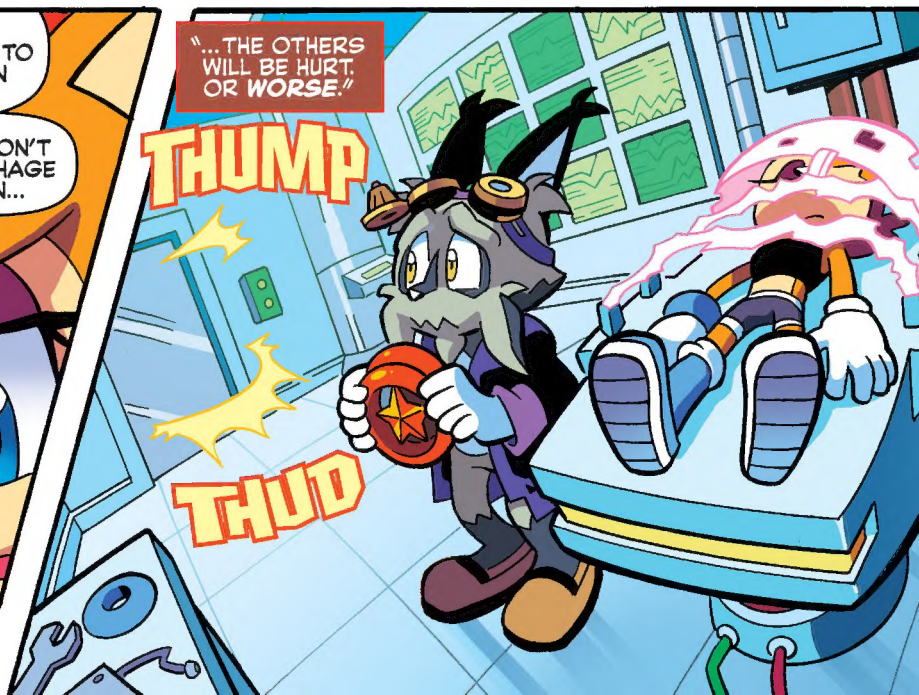
...YES. I SUPPOSE SO.

I DON'T EVEN LIKE FIGHTING...





URGH, IF I COULD JUST FLY LIKE YOU DID BACK THERE...!





WHERE ARE
YOU, YOU LITTLE
WRETCHES?!

BRATS!

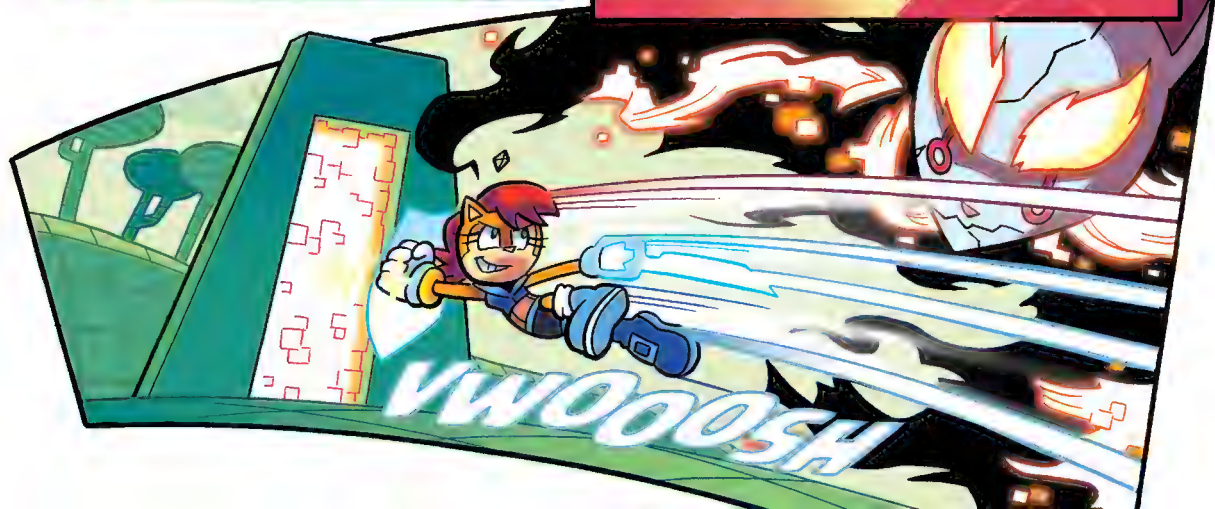
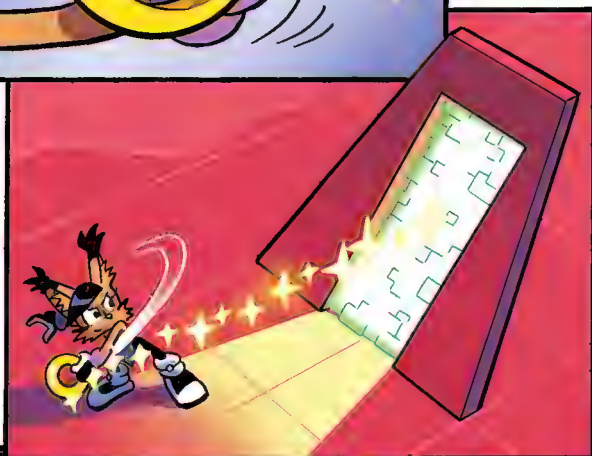
SCOUNDRELS!

ACTUALLY, IT'S
"PRINCESS,"

YOU!

YOU MISSED
YOUR CHANCE TO PULL
APART DR. ELLIDY'S
CODING,* AND YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO GET
ME, EITHER!

C'MOOOONNNN...
THIS ISN'T THE REAL
WORLD, I SHOULD BE AS
FAST AS SONIC IF I WANT
TO BE...! STUPID OVERLY-
LOGICAL BRAIN!



IF WE CAN'T FIGHT YOU,
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO
KICK YOU OUT!



HOW DARE YOU?!



YOU
CAN'T--

YOU
WON'T--

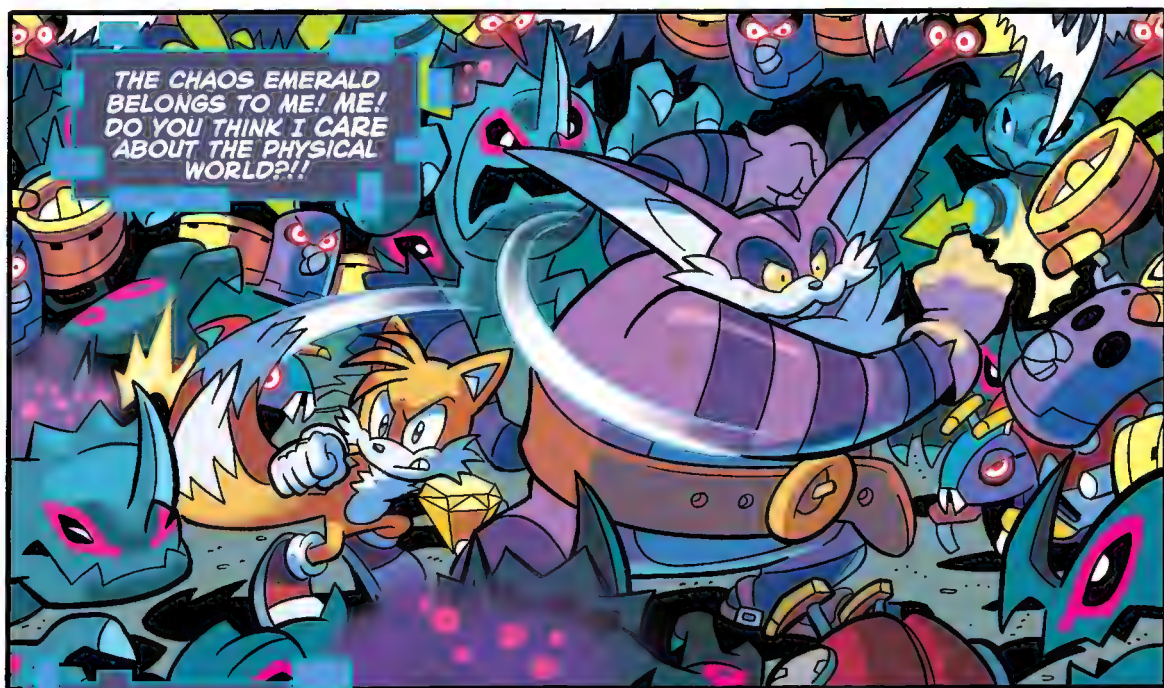


YOU'RE
OUTDATED!
EVEN DAMAGED,
I'M FASTER
THAN YOU!
STRONGER!





YOU CAN'T
STOP ME! THE
RINGS! THE
RESEARCH!
IT'S ALL MINE!



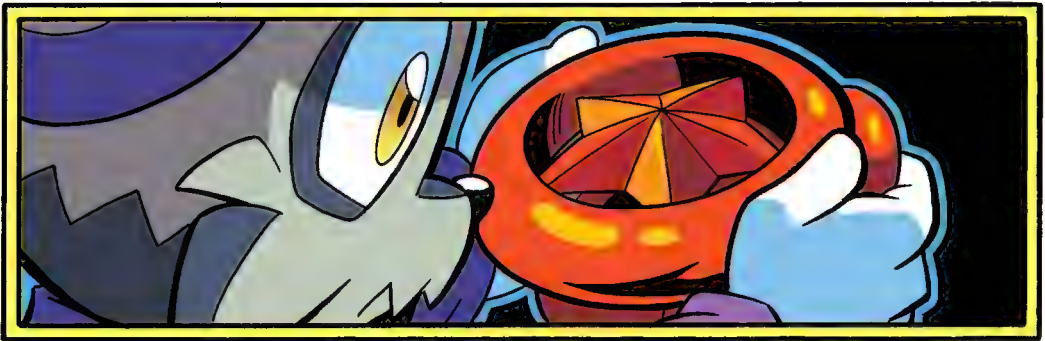
THE CHAOS EMERALD
BELONGS TO ME! ME!
DO YOU THINK I CARE
ABOUT THE PHYSICAL
WORLD?!!

IF I DON'T HAVE
SOMETHING WORTHY
TO BRING BACK,
DR. EGGMAN WILL
NEVER FORGIVE ME
FOR MY PAST
MISTAKES!

SO...

STOP...

INTERFERING!





OVERCLOCKED NICOLE



THAT POWER...
THAT RED STAR
RING...! THAT'S
SUPPOSED TO
BE MINE!!

Wwoooosh



NO.
IT'S NOT.
AND
YOU'RE
NOT
WELCOME
HERE.
NOW...



GET.

OUT!



NICOLE, THAT WAS AMAZING! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!

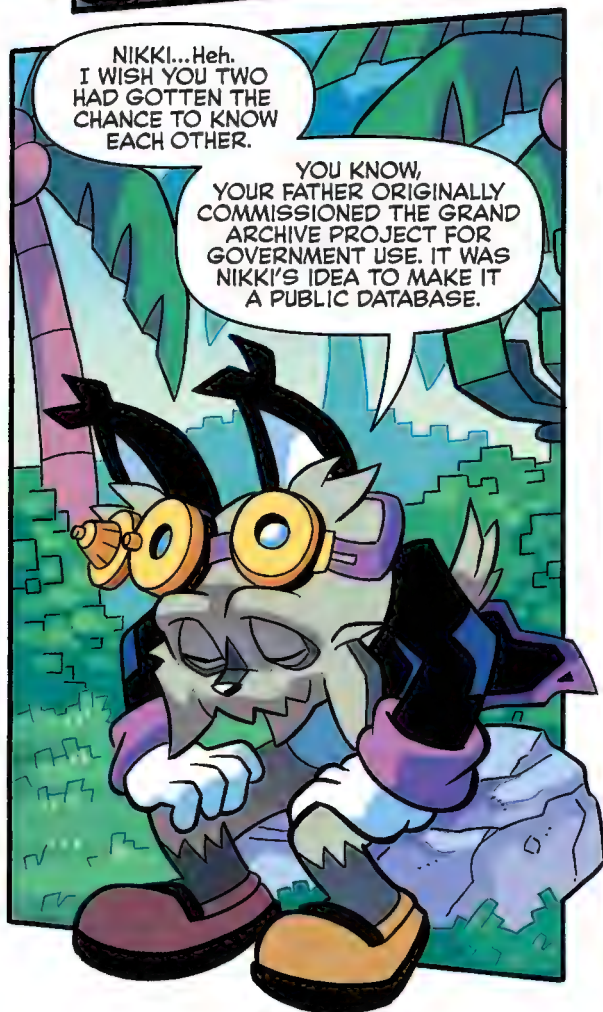
I...I ONLY SHUT HER OUT OF THIS SYSTEM. PHAGE IS WEAKENED, BUT SHE'S STILL OUT THERE.

STILL... I DON'T THINK SHE'LL BE COMING BACK ANY TIME SOON.

DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. YOU SAVED US ALL!

AFTER YOU SAVED ME.







I'M SORRY,
I'VE GOT TO SAY
SOMETHING.

NICOLE--

I
ALREADY
KNOW.



WHAT?

ABOUT
DR. ELLIDY'S
DAUGHTER...NIKKI.
ABOUT...WHY I
WAS CREATED.

WHEN I WAS
HIDING FROM PHAGE,
I FOUND SEVERAL
OLD FILES AND...



NICOLE, IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT THAT SHE
DIDN'T MAKE IT. YOU
WEREN'T EVEN...YOU
THEN.

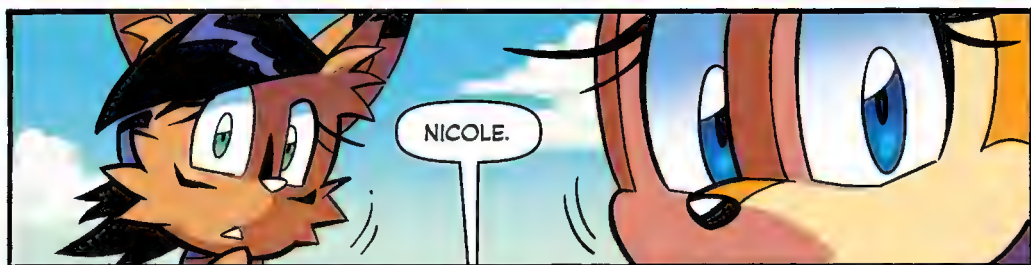
I KNOW. BUT I WAS CREATED BECAUSE
DR. ELLIDY WAS TRYING TO SAVE HIS DAUGHTER'S
LIFE...HOPING THAT IF HER BODY FAILED, HER MIND
WOULD LIVE ON. AN EARLY VERSION OF THE
DIGITIZER...

AS AN A.I., I WAS TO
SCAN OUT A NEURAL NETWORK
FOR HER TO ADAPT TO...BUT SHE
NEVER GOT THE CHANCE.

I...I THINK IT WAS
I WHO ADAPTED TO THE SCANS
INSTEAD OF HER. A DIGITAL VERSION
OF AN ORGANIC MIND...IT EXPLAINS HOW
I WAS ABLE TO DEVELOP FROM WHAT I
USED TO BE, DOESN'T IT?

MY
POTENTIAL
FOR GROWTH
...CAME AT
THE COST OF
NIKKI'S
LIFE.

THEREFORE...
I UNDERSTAND
IF DR. ELLIDY
DOESN'T WISH
TO INTERACT
WITH ME. SO
FOR NOW--



EH... IT'S STILL GOING TO BE A WHILE BEFORE I GET MY LAB UP AND RUNNING AGAIN. I WON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO STUDY IT MYSELF.

YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF ANALYZING IT THAN ME, ANYWAY. JUST BE SURE TO SEND ME YOUR FINDINGS, OKAY?





LET'S
GET
GOING!

WELL, THEN...
I GUESS YOU'LL
RIDE THE WAY
BACK IN YOUR
HANDHELD...?

ACTUALLY...



I THINK
THAT, TODAY,
I'D LIKE TO
FEEL THE
WIND ON MY
FACE.



PHAGE HAS BEEN THWARTED!

BUT THE FATHER/DAUGHTER REUNION WILL HAVE TO WAIT, BECAUSE THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES IMMEDIATELY IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #272, COMING SOON! PLUS, THE RACE IS ON BETWEEN SONIC AND METAL SONIC IN OUR 75TH ISSUE OF SONIC UNIVERSE!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, DON'T FORGET
TO CHECK OUT THE
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE,
SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND
GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!
ALL THAT AND THE BRAND NEW
COMEDY SERIES

SONIC BOOM™

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

FAN ART



Katelyn G. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com



Lola A.
from Virginia



Connor L.
from California



Isaiah H.
from Virginia

HEY, KIDS!

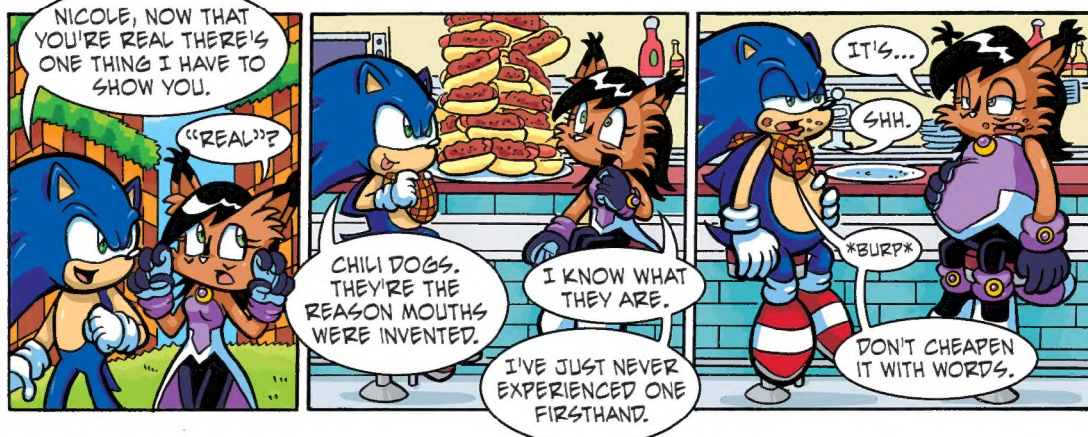
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STRIPS?? SEND YOUR GUT- BUSTING SONIC STRIP TO:

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OFF PANEL

SPARK OF LIFE



SCRIPT: ERIC ESQUIVEL PENCILS: AGNES GARBOWSKA INKS: JIM AMASH COLORS: VINCENT LOVALLO



MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

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SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM
 OR TWEET AT US USING #MYSONICUNIVERSE!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
 Hello!

Hey!

This is my second time writing fan mail, hope it finds you well!

It did! It even said hello to me!

Last time I was asking about Nicole and her backstory and was really excited to hear about Spark of Life! I have been hovering by my mailbox waiting for new issues to arrive and I have loved every minute of it!

That's dedication right there! So did you hijack the Egg Mobile so you could hover over your mail box?

On top of that, the current "Champions" story in the other comic line is also keeping me on my toes! Keep up the amazing plots!

Sulla :3 sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Sulla!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'

Hi, I started buying Sonic Universe

comics for my 7 y/o and 11 y/o sons, Connor and Brodie. Connor saw your page for fan art and decided to draw a picture of Tails.

We got the picture! Check out Connor's sweet Tails fan art on the previous page!

I'm sure more are to come, but it sure would make his day to see his first picture printed in a future comic. We've established a subscription at a local comic book store and look forward to reading what's to come.

We'd love to see more of Connor's work! That's fantastic, we hope Connor and Brodie enjoy our upcoming stories!

Thanks for making a great, kid-friendly comic I can enjoy with my children.

James L.
 from Californina

Thanks for the kind words, James!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'

Hey there, big fan of the comic, I'll

have the usual.

I see you're one of our regulars!

I really only have one question: is Dulcy coming back? I miss her, and ever since Nicole mentioned that Sally inspired her after the reboot, I've been waiting for her to come back. I hope that if she does, she becomes a permanent Freedom Fighter aboard the Sky Patrol.

Thank you!

-Nicklas W. sent to
Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for writing in, Nicklas! On the subject of Dulcy, I can't really say. Only Mr. Ian Flynn knows the real answer! Though I will say, with the recent appearances of characters like Breezie, Honey and a few other classic characters, anything is possible! :D

That's all the room we have! Come on back next month for a furious chase between Sonic and one of his fastest and most dangerous enemies!

COMING SOON!



NEXT ISSUE...



SONIC
UNIVERSE TM **75**